

REMARKS

Applicants received a Notice of Allowance dated February 20, 2008 in which claims 1, 28, 39 and 40 were allowed, non-elected claims 3, 4, 6-27, 29-32, 34, 35, 37 and 38 were cancelled and the status of claim 2 was unclear.

During a telephone conference with Examiner Tran on April 12, 2008, it was agreed that claim 2 has also been allowed, which would be consistent with the Examiner's comments regarding allowed subject matter included in item 5, page 4, of the Notice of Allowance dated February 20, 2008.

In addition, it is submitted that during said telephone conference Examiner Tran also agreed to rejoin non-elected claims 3 and 4, since these claims directly or indirectly depend from allowable claim 1. It was explained that claim 1 corresponds to the invention of the first embodiment shown in, e.g., FIGs. 1-5. Claim 3 corresponds to the invention of the second embodiment shown in, e.g., FIGs. 9-12. In the first embodiment, as shown in FIG. 3, the common signal line is formed of the 1st-level metal interconnection (the select/TG line 50a). In the second embodiment, as shown in FIG. 9, the common signal line is formed of the gate-level interconnection (the select/TG line 28a). This is the only difference between the first embodiment and the second embodiment.

In view of the above, it was agreed that the claimed subject-matters of claim 1 are common to the first embodiment and the second embodiment and that the added features to original claim 1 do not contradict the features of claims 3 and 4 (see, e.g., FIG. 9).

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Accordingly, Applicants hereby request that the Examiner rejoin non-elected claims 3 and 4 and properly indicated that claim 2 has been allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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